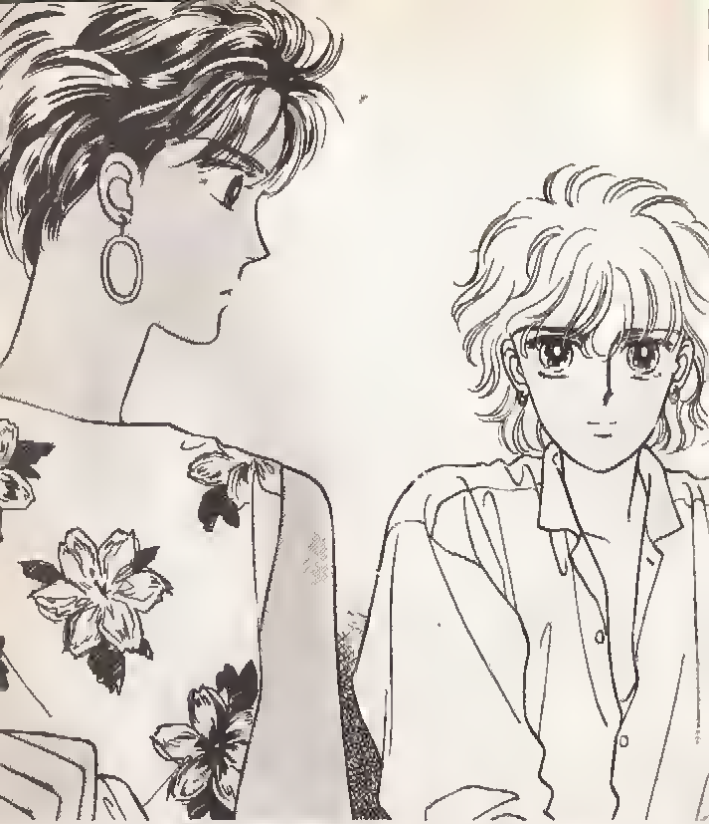


CIPHER

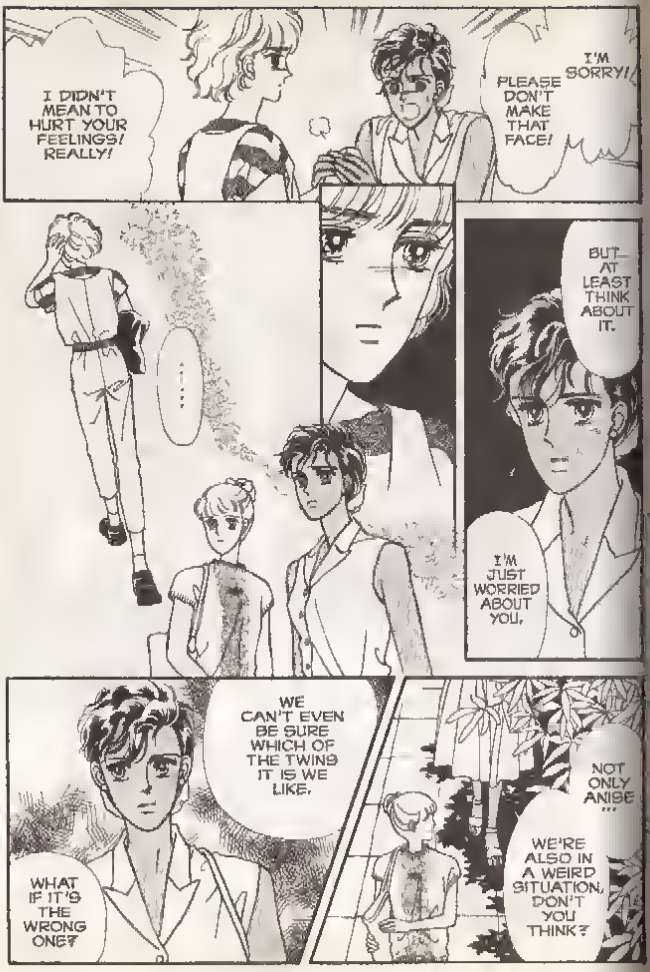
Volume 10

By Minako Narita

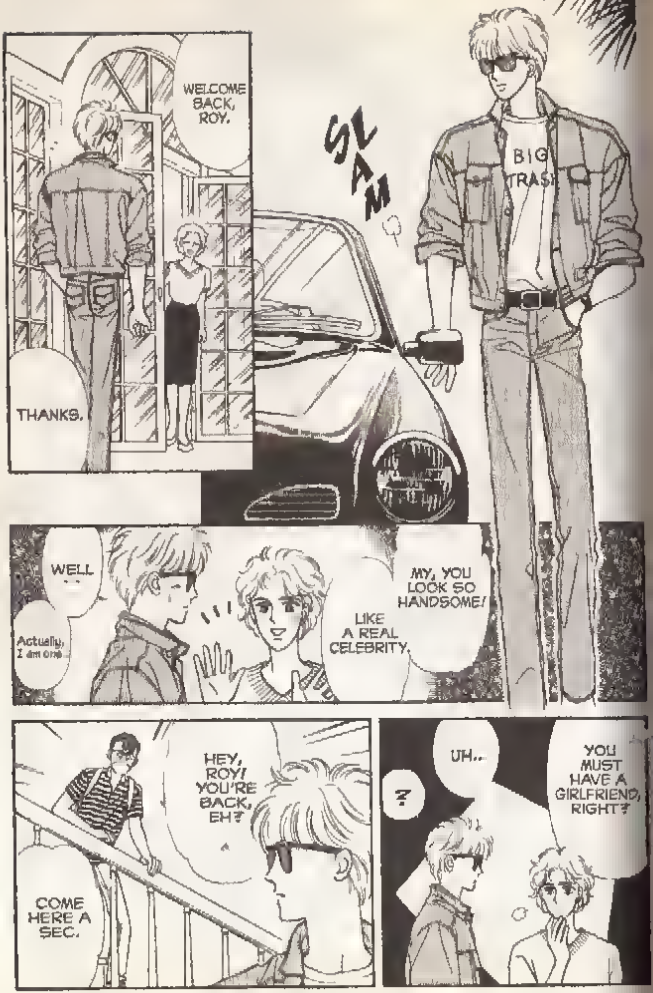
HEY, ANISE!
Hi!

IT'S ALMOST INDEPEN-DENCE DAY, ISN'T IT?
OH, HEY
SORRY I'M LATE
I HAD ROB GIVE ME A RIDE, AND TRAFFIC WAS AWFUL.
IT'S ALMOST "LIBERTY WEEK," AND THE PLACE IS PACKED WITH TOURISTS.
DIDN'T YOU KNOW IT'S ALMOST THE STATUE OF LIBERTY'S HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY?
UH... YEAH, YEAH... OF COURSE I KNEW.
GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER, ANISE!
HERE.
IT'S THE LATEST CLIPPINGS ABOUT CIPHER.
WHAT DID YOU FIND?
BUT ANYWAY, HURRY UP AND SHOW ME.
UH, OKAY

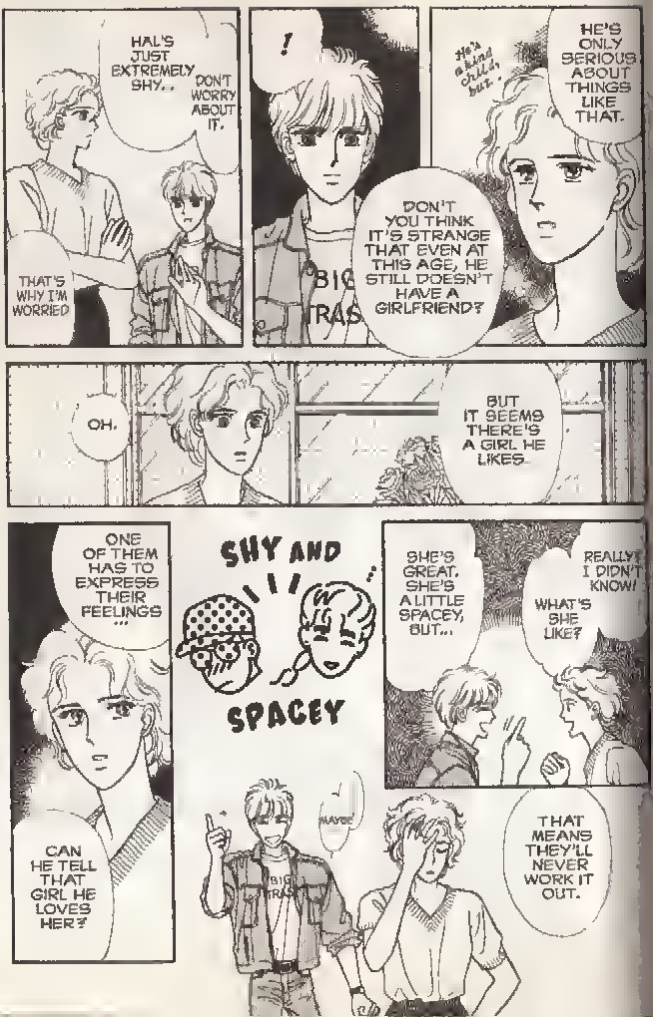
WHAT ABOUT SIVA? HAVE YOU SEEN HIM AT ALL?
NO.
SO YOU STILL HAVEN'T HAD ANY CONTACT FROM CIPHER?
WOW! HE LOOKS REALLY TAN.
THIS IS A REALLY GREAT PHOTO!
NOT MUCH SINCE VACATION STARTED.
I WAS THINKING ABOUT GOING BY HIS APARTMENT SOMETIME SOON.
UH...
DON'T YOU THINK MAYBE IT'S TIME YOU MADE A NEW BOYFRIEND?
ANISE!

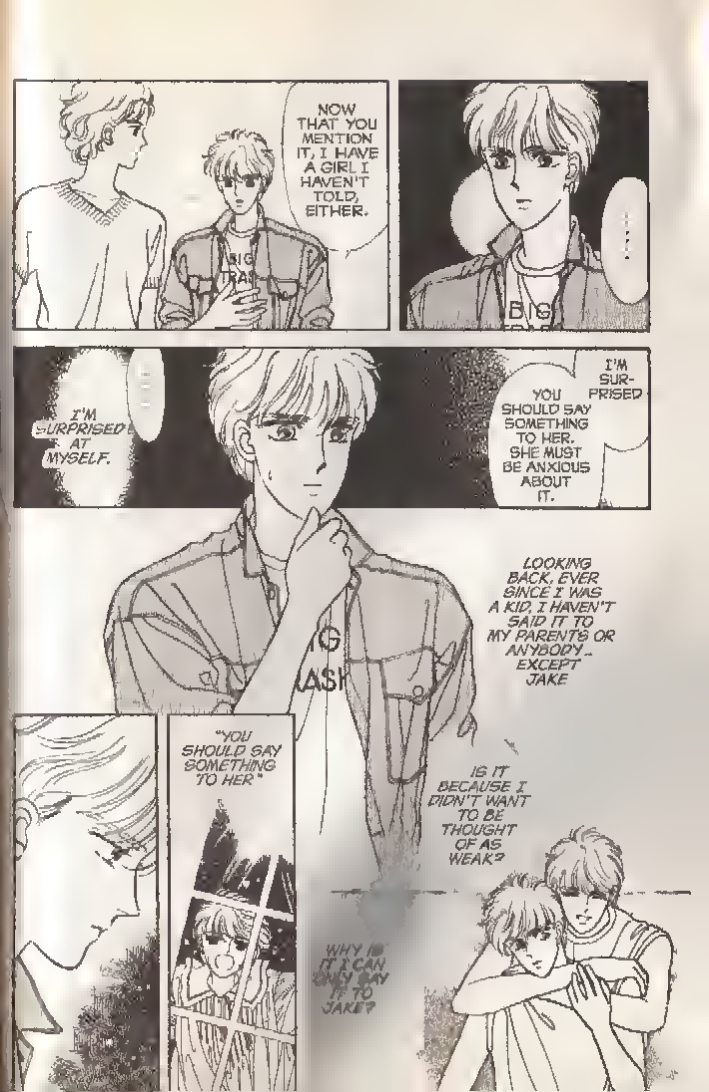

I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT YOUR FEELINGS! REALLY!
I'M SORRY! PLEASE DON'T MAKE THAT FACE!
BUT— AT LEAST THINK ABOUT IT.
I'M JUST WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
WE CAN'T EVEN BE SURE WHICH OF THE TWINS IT IS WE LIKE.
WHAT IF IT'S THE WRONG ONE?
NOT ONLY ANISE ...
WE'RE ALSO IN A WEIRD SITUATION, DON'T YOU THINK?

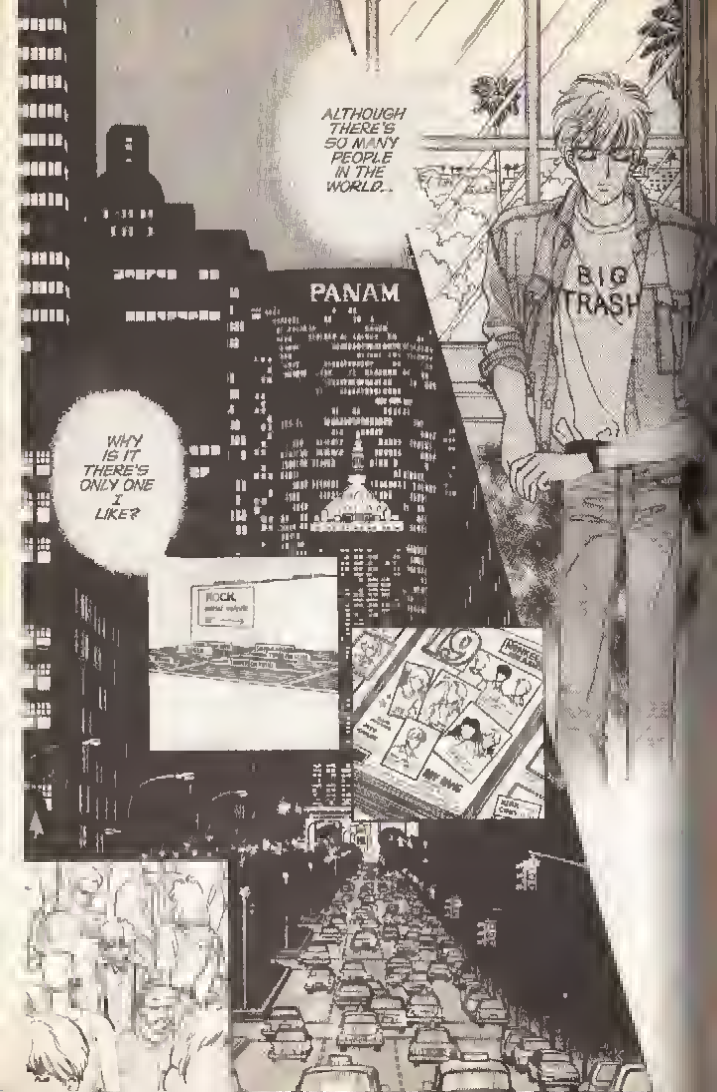
MAYBE IT'S TIME WE FOUND A NEW BOYFRIEND?
WE'RE JUST THE SAME.
MAYBE


WELCOME BACK, ROY.
THANKS.
SLAM
BIG TRAS
WELL...
Actually, I am one.
MY, YOU LOOK SO HANDSOME! LIKE A REAL CELEBRITY.
HEY, ROY! YOU'RE BACK, EH?
COME HERE A SEC.
UH..
?
YOU MUST HAVE A GIRLFRIEND, RIGHT?

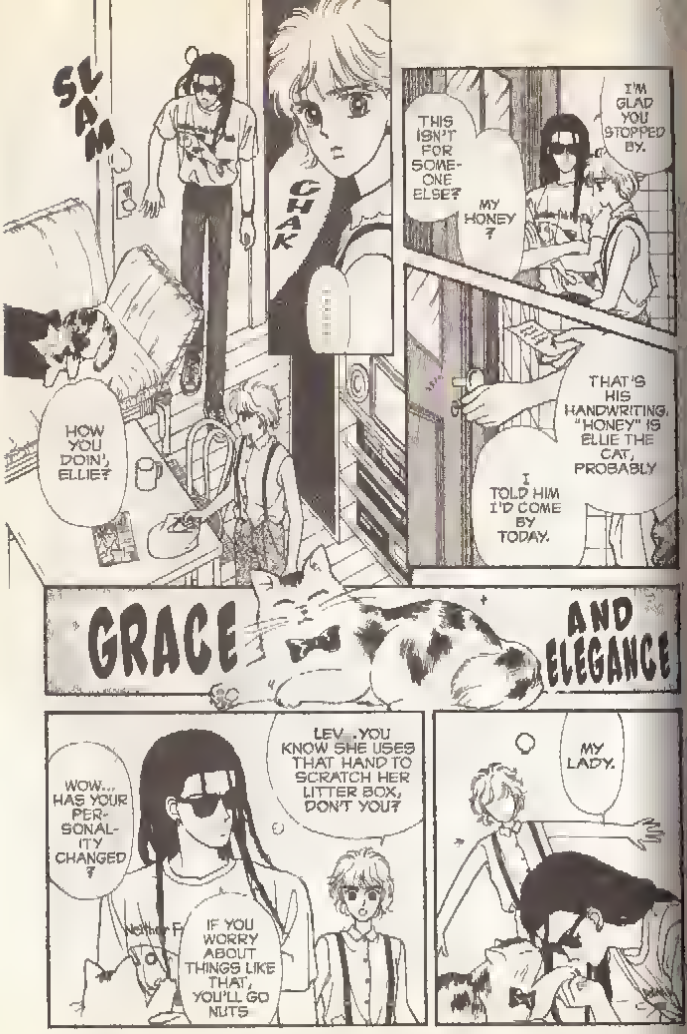
WE ORIGINALLY GOT HIM TO STUDY TURTLE CUISINE.
NO WAY! IF YOU WANT TO EAT TURTLE, GO TO SOUTH AMERICA!
THEY WANT TO EAT MY GAMERA!
MY PARENTS REALLY SUCK!
THE TURTLE,
GAMERA ?
BIG RAS
SIGH
Ha ha ha.
WELL, I'M AGAINST EATING TURTLES, TOO.
THAT'S JUST LIKE HAL.
I'LL DEFEND GAMERA WITH MY LIFE!
GLUNK GLUNK


HAL'S JUST EXTREMELY SHY..
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
THAT'S WHY I'M WORRIED
!
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S STRANGE THAT EVEN AT THIS AGE, HE STILL DOESN'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?
He's a kind child, but...
HE'S ONLY SERIOUS ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT.
OH.
BUT IT SEEMS THERE'S A GIRL HE LIKES.
ONE OF THEM HAS TO EXPRESS THEIR FEELINGS ...
CAN HE TELL THAT GIRL HE LOVES HER?
SHY AND
SPACEY
SHE'S GREAT. SHE'S A LITTLE SPACEY, BUT...
REALLY? I DIDN'T KNOW!
WHAT'S SHE LIKE?
I HAVE!
THAT MEANS THEY'LL NEVER WORK IT OUT.


NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I HAVE A GIRL I HAVEN'T TOLD, EITHER.
I'M SURPRISED AT MYSELF.
I'M SURPRISED
YOU SHOULD SAY SOMETHING TO HER. SHE MUST BE ANXIOUS ABOUT IT.
LOOKING BACK, EVER SINCE I WAS A KID, I HAVEN'T SAID IT TO MY PARENTS OR ANYBODY... EXCEPT JAKE
"YOU SHOULD SAY SOMETHING TO HER."
IS IT BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO BE THOUGHT OF AS WEAK?
WHY IS IT I CAN ONLY SAY IT TO JAKE?


ALTHOUGH THERE'S SO MANY PEOPLE IN THE WORLD...
PANAM
BIG TRASH
WHY IS IT THERE'S ONLY ONE I LIKE?
ROCK

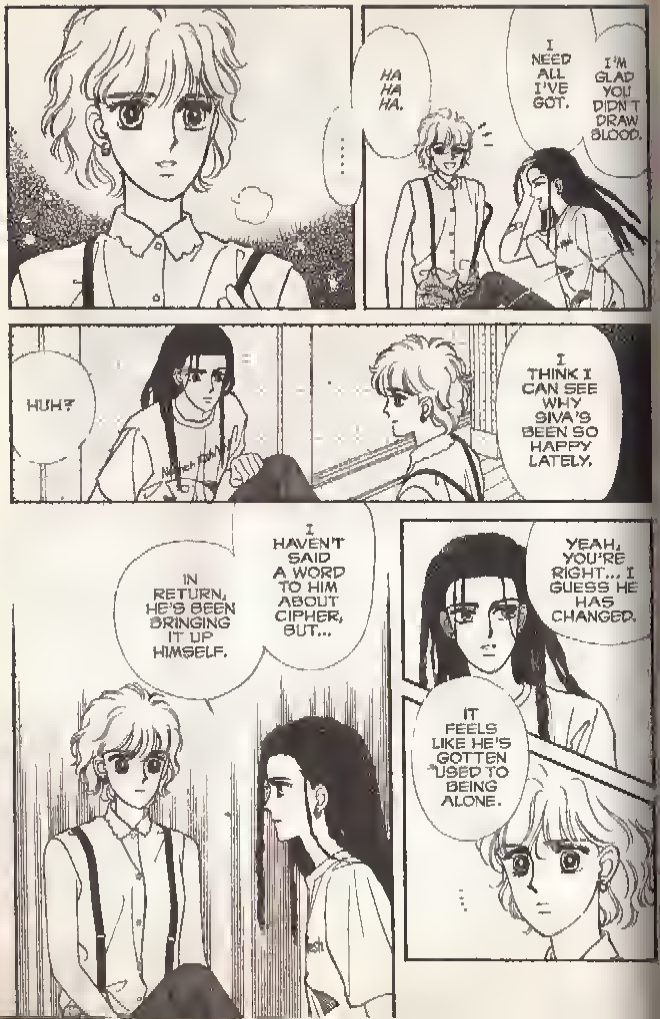
CREAK
HI!
OH.
LONG TIME NO SEE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SAME AS ALWAYS.
ARE YOU WAITING FOR SIVA? IS HE NOT IN?
YUP. THERE WAS A NOTE TAPED TO THE DOOR.
I'M GOING TO BUY FISH FOR MY HONEY BE BACK SOON. WAIT FOR ME.
J
Sivakumar, gone to buy fish for my honey. And look, your spray here.
J

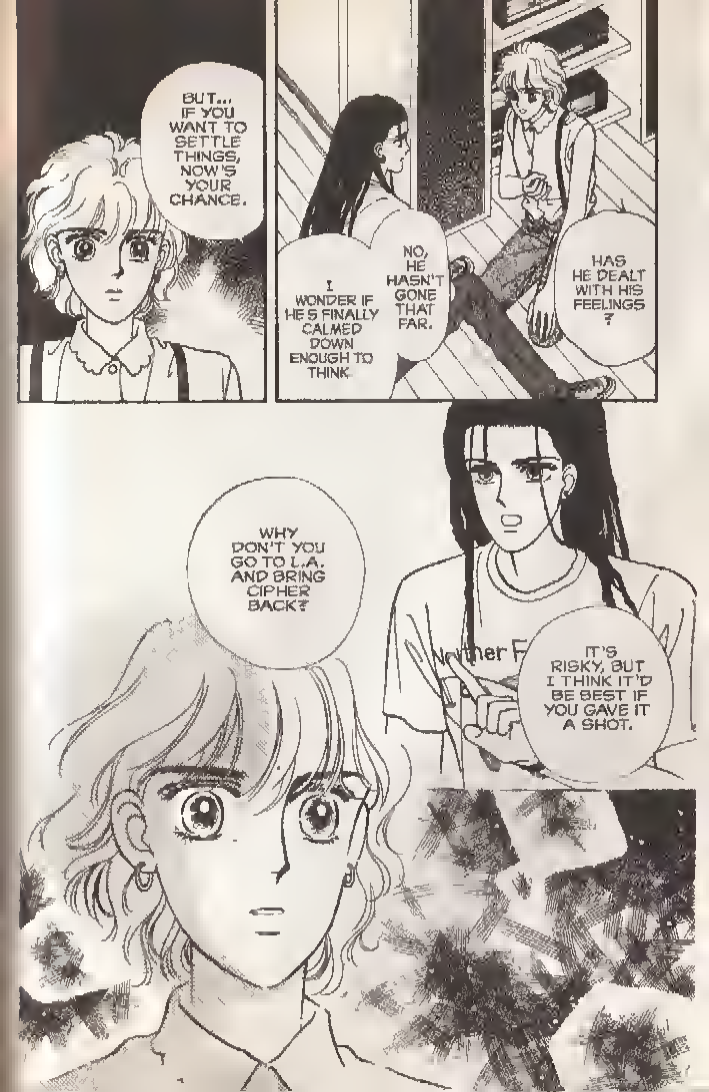

SLAM
CHAK
HOW YOU DOIN', ELLIE?
I'M GLAD YOU STOPPED BY.
THIS ISN'T FOR SOME-ONE ELSE?
MY HONEY ?
THAT'S HIS HANDWRITING. "HONEY" IS ELLIE THE CAT, PROBABLY
I TOLD HIM I'D COME BY TODAY.
GRACE AND ELEGANCE
WOW... HAS YOUR PER-SONAL-ITY CHANGED ?
LEV...YOU KNOW SHE USES THAT HAND TO SCRATCH HER LITTER BOX, DON'T YOU?
IF YOU WORRY ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT, YOU'LL GO NUTS
MY LADY.

SINCE WHEN DID YOU START CALLING HIM "JAKE"?
UH ...
YOU THINK SO? JAKE SORTA SAID THE SAME THING.
BUT IN FRONT OF MY FRIENDS, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS.
A LOT OF STUFF HAS HAPPENED ...
WELL .. UH ..
ANISE! WAIT A SEC!
SLAM
DASH

IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY SAY IT!
YOU CAN HIT ME IF YOU RE MAD AT ME.
THAT MIGHT ACTUALLY MAKE ME FEEL BETTER.
AS HARD AS YOU WANT! HIT ME WITH ALL YOU'VE GOT!
WHAM
WHAT'S WRONG? C'MON!

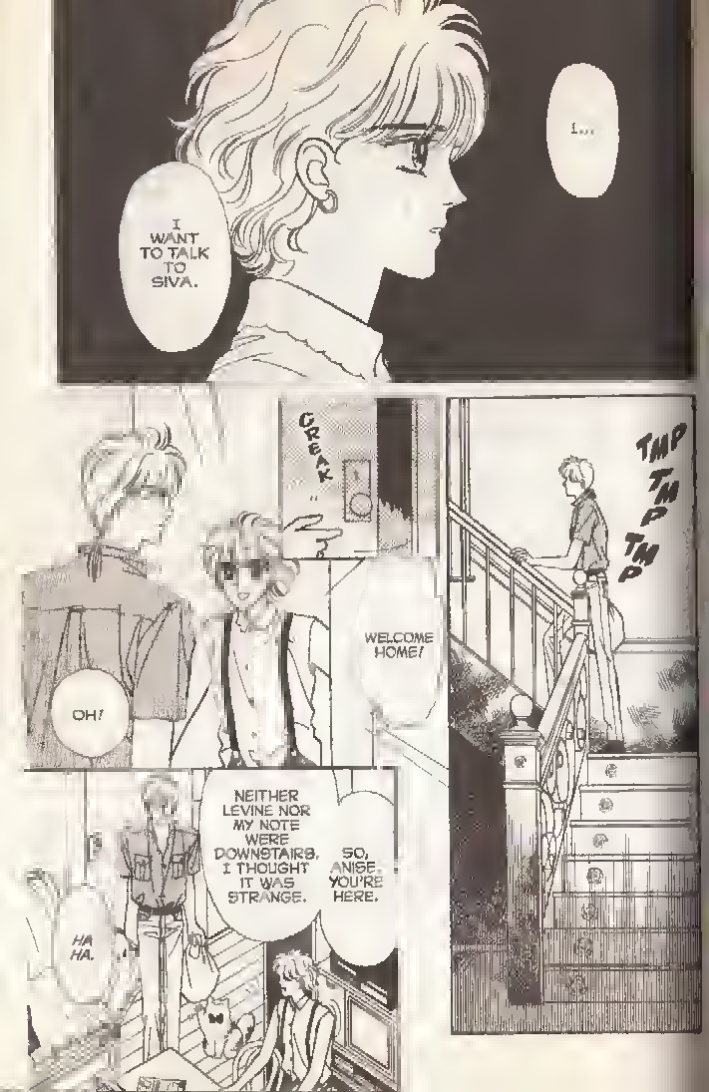
GASP
KLUNK
LEV?!
I...
I...
CLENCHED FIST!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST GONNA SLAP ME
I WAS CARELESS
.....
FEEL BETTER NOW?
GRIN


.....
HA HA HA.
I NEED ALL I'VE GOT.
I'M GLAD YOU DIDN'T DRAW BLOOD.
HUH?
I THINK I CAN SEE WHY SIVA'S BEEN SO HAPPY LATELY.
I HAVEN'T SAID A WORD TO HIM ABOUT CIPHER, BUT...
IN RETURN, HE'S BEEN BRINGING IT UP HIMSELF.
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT... I GUESS HE HAS CHANGED.
IT FEELS LIKE HE'S GOTTEN USED TO BEING ALONE.
...


BUT... IF YOU WANT TO SETTLE THINGS, NOW'S YOUR CHANCE.
I WONDER IF HE'S FINALLY CALMED DOWN ENOUGH TO THINK.
NO, HE HASN'T GONE THAT FAR.
HAS HE DEALT WITH HIS FEELINGS?
WHY DON'T YOU GO TO L.A. AND BRING CIPHER BACK?
IT'S RISKY, BUT I THINK IT'D BE BEST IF YOU GAVE IT A SHOT.

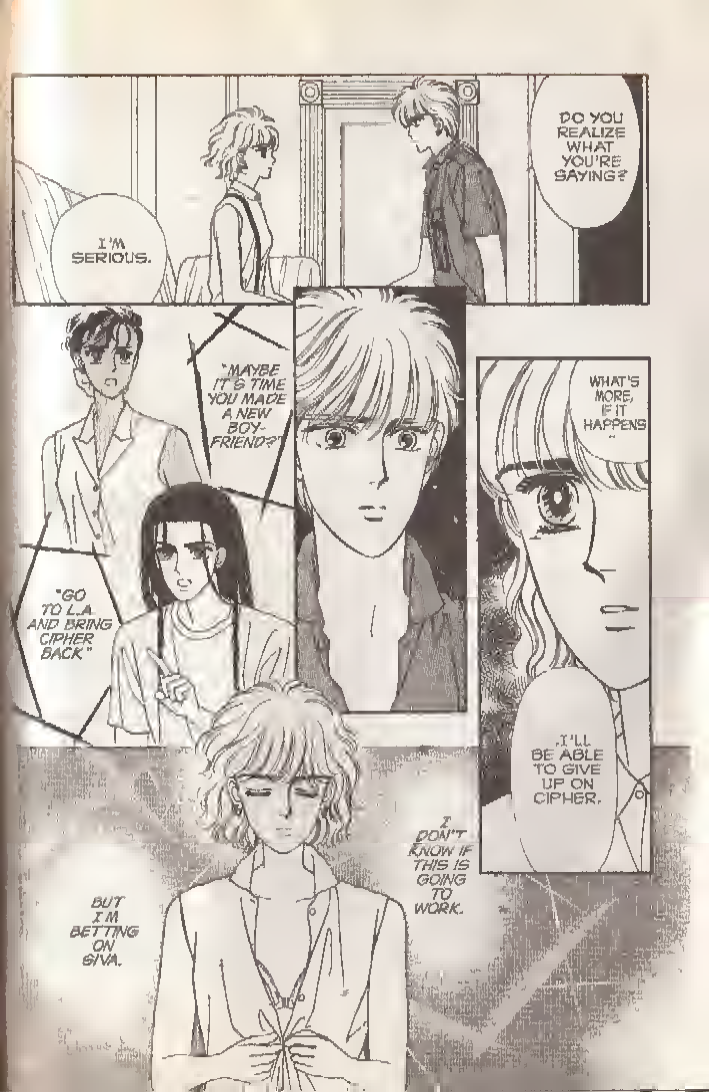
ANISE?
FIND HIM, TALK TO HIM, AND BRING HIM BACK!
MEAN-WHILE, I'LL WATCH OVER JAKE.
IT'S SOME-THING ONLY YOU CAN DO.
HE CERTAINLY DOESN'T WANT TO SEE ME.
RIGHT NOW, I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I HAVE THE POWER TO PERSUADE CIPHER.
ANISE.
...
ARE YOU THINKING... HE'S FOUND ANOTHER GIRLFRIEND?

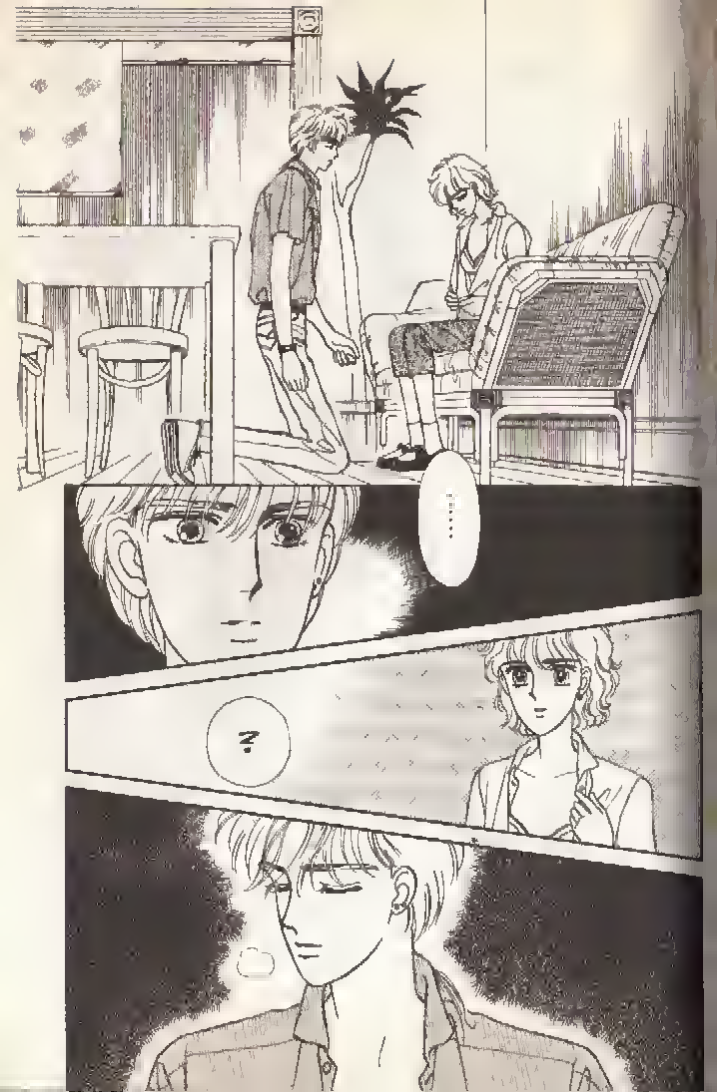
SOMETIMES WE LOSE OUR CONFIDENCE
THAT'S EXACTLY THE TIME YOU GOTTA KEEP PLUGGING AWAY. BUT
SOMETIMES IT FEELS LIKE EVERYTHING HAS GONE DOWN THE TUBES.
DREDGE UP YOUR COURAGE AND BELIEVE IN YOURSELF.
TRY IT WITH THAT PASSION YOU JUST HAD.
IF IT DOESN'T WORK OUT, I'LL DO SOME SIT-UPS AND WAIT FOR YOU.


I WANT TO TALK TO SIVA.
I...
CREAK...
WELCOME HOME!
OH!
TMP TMP TMP TMP
NEITHER LEVINE NOR MY NOTE WERE DOWNSTAIRS. I THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE.
SO, ANISE. YOU'RE HERE.
HA HA.

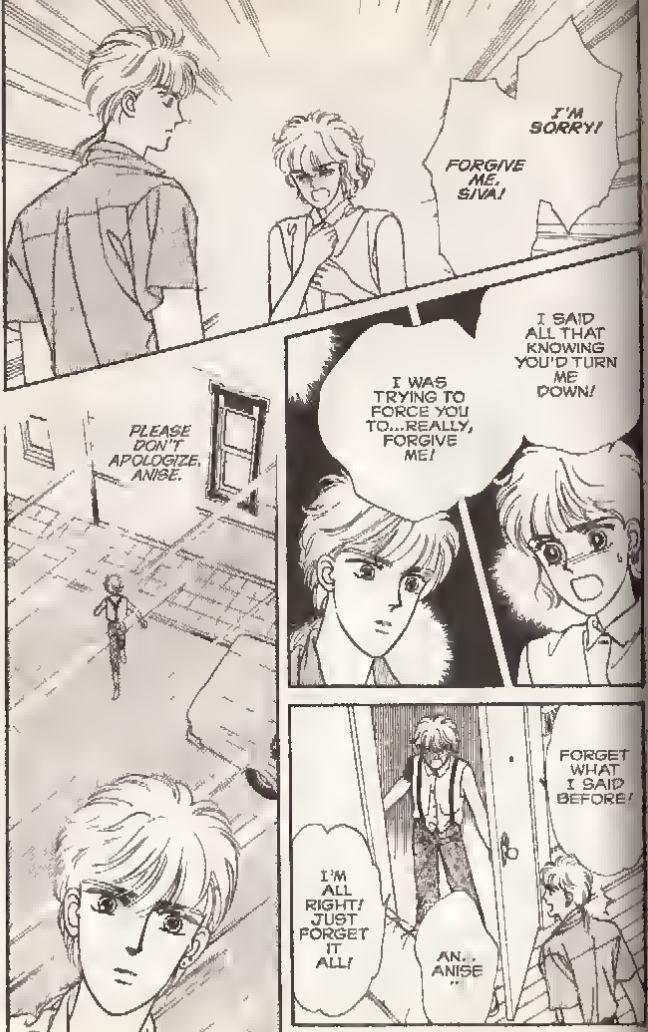
.....
HOW COME?
WHERE'S LEVINE?
HE DROPPED BY, BUT HE LEFT.
HM?
HEY, SIVA, I...
AN...
ANISE?
I'M A VIRGIN.
DAT

.....
I WANT IT TO BE CIPHER.
UNLESS YOU TELL HIM YOU WANT TO MEET HIM.
BUT CIPHER'S DEFINITELY NOT GOING TO CONTACT ME.
...PRETENDING IT'S CIPHER.
I WANT TO HAVE MY FIRST EXPERIENCE...
SO—, I GIVE UP.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO CALL HIM, ARE YOU?
.....

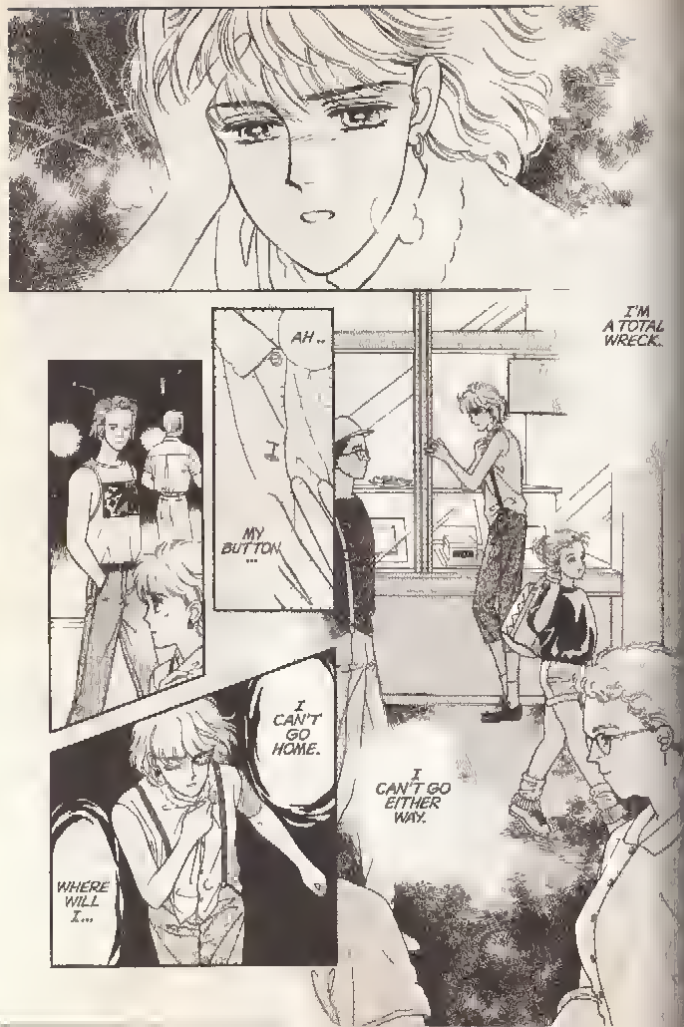

DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?
I'M SERIOUS.
"MAYBE IT'S TIME YOU MADE A NEW BOY-FRIEND?"
"GO TO L.A. AND BRING CIPHER BACK."
WHAT'S MORE, IF IT HAPPENS
I'LL BE ABLE TO GIVE UP ON CIPHER.
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS GOING TO WORK.
BUT I'M BETTING ON SIVA.

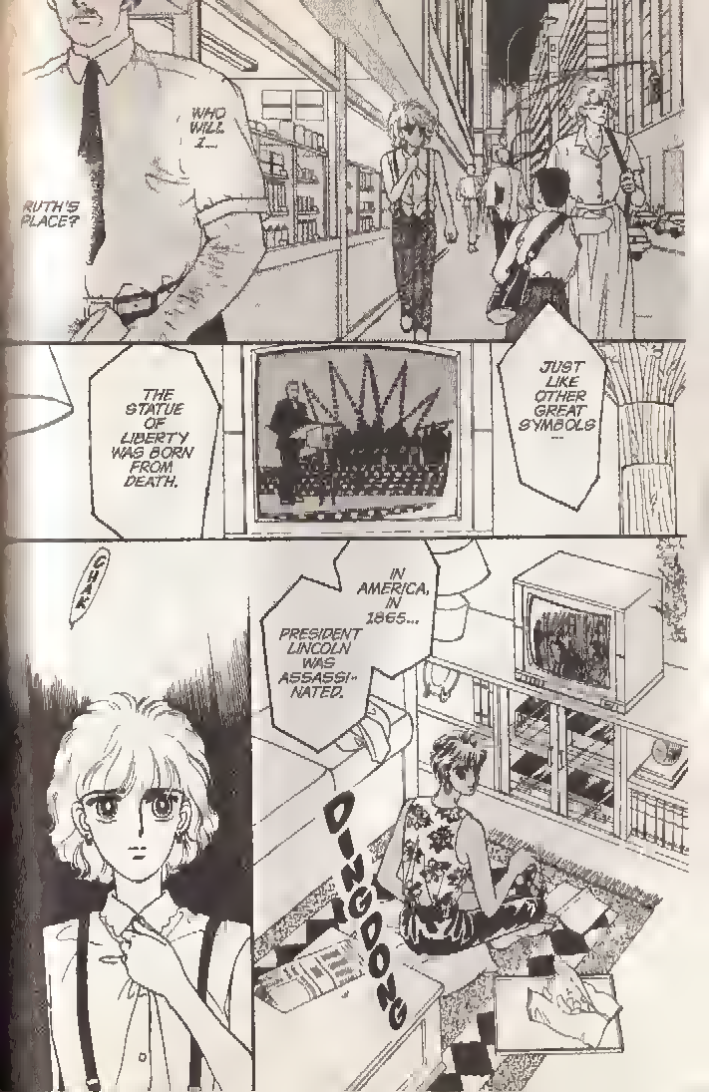


ENOUGH OF THIS NONSENSE.
YOU SHOULD GO HOME.
OH...
HE TURNED ME DOWN.
HE MEANS I SHOULDN'T GIVE UP ON CIPHER..
BLUSH
ANISE?


I'M SORRY!
FORGIVE ME, SIVA!
I SAID ALL THAT KNOWING YOU'D TURN ME DOWN!
I WAS TRYING TO FORCE YOU TO...REALLY, FORGIVE ME!
PLEASE DON'T APOLOGIZE, ANISE.
FORGET WHAT I SAID BEFORE!
I'M ALL RIGHT! JUST FORGET IT ALL!
AN.. ANISE "

I DON'T WANT IT TO BE ANYBODY BUT DANA.
I'M THE SAME.
THANK YOU PRESIDENT AND MRS REAGAN.
PRESIDENT AND MRS MITTERRAND.
SHE REMAINS IN OUR HEARTS AS A SYMBOL OF LIBERTY ILLUMINATING THE WORLD
I ♥ NY
SHIRTS


I'M A TOTAL WRECK.
AH..
MY BUTTON...
I CAN'T GO HOME.
WHERE WILL I...
I CAN'T GO EITHER WAY.


WHO WILL I...
RUTH'S PLACE?
THE STATUE OF LIBERTY WAS BORN FROM DEATH.
JUST LIKE OTHER GREAT SYMBOLS —
CHAK
IN AMERICA, IN 1865...
PRESIDENT LINCOLN WAS ASSASSI-NATED.
DING-DONG

THE ONE THING THAT'S BEEN KEEPING ME HAPPY IS WORKING ON THE CIPHER IMAGE ALBUM. THANKS TO SAKURAI THE DIRECTOR AND PAIGE THE COORDINATOR WE GOT THE THOMPSON TWINS TO WRITE A SONG FOR IT... A BRAND NEW TUNE. I FEEL LIKE I'M DREAMING.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE "BOMBERS IN THE SKY" VIDEO? IT'S SO MUCH LIKE THE OLD DAYS. I'M ASTOUNDED. HE'S STILL WEARING THE SAME COAT HE WORE ON THE MAXELL CASSETTE LABEL.

CHRIS

REALLY BIG, LONG LEGS.

MIN

CHRIS THE GUY SINGING THE TTG SONG HAD A FACE JUST LIKE TOM. (WE COULDN'T USE TOM AND ALANNAH'S VOICES DUE TO THE CONTRACT.) HE'S A YOUNG GUY WHO GREW UP IN ENGLAND AND L.A. HE CAME TO JAPAN JUST TO DO THIS RECORDING, THANKFULLY.

I'M REALLY INTO RETRO STUFF THESE DAYS.

THE LIBERTY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS ARE JUST STARTING.

YOU WANT SOMETHING TO DRINK? COLA, OR...

WHAT'S UP ALL OF A SUDDEN ANISE?

CAN I COME IN?

SURE COME ON IN.

A... ANISE?

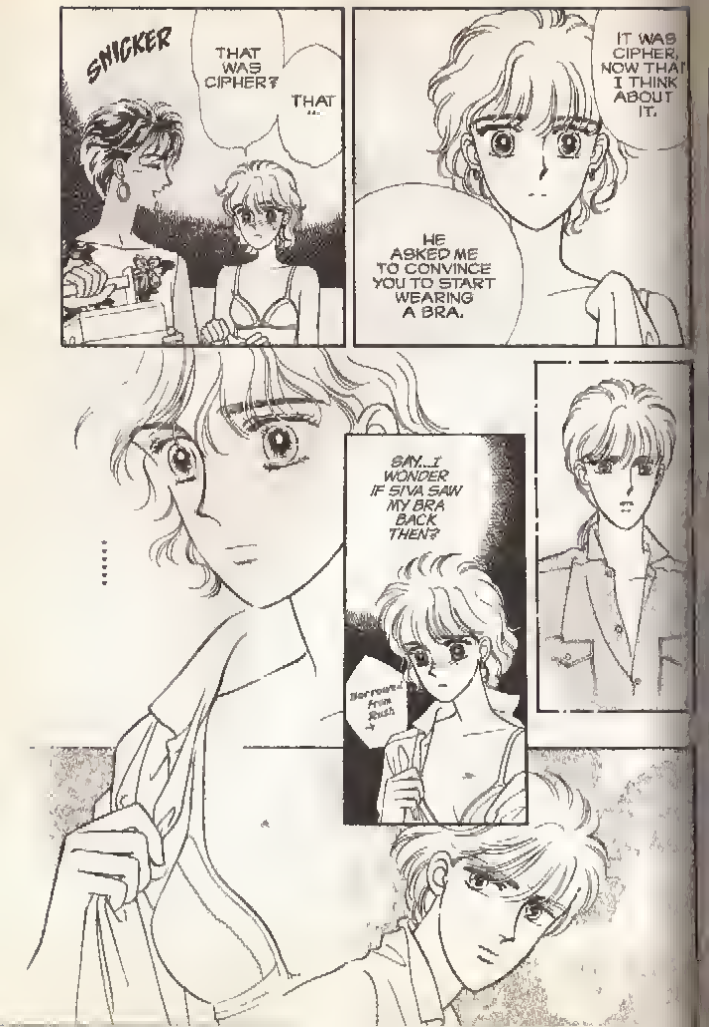
SNIFF SNIFF

SNIFF

CIPHER TOLD ME TO WATCH OUT FOR SIVA, BUT IT ALL WENT WRONG.

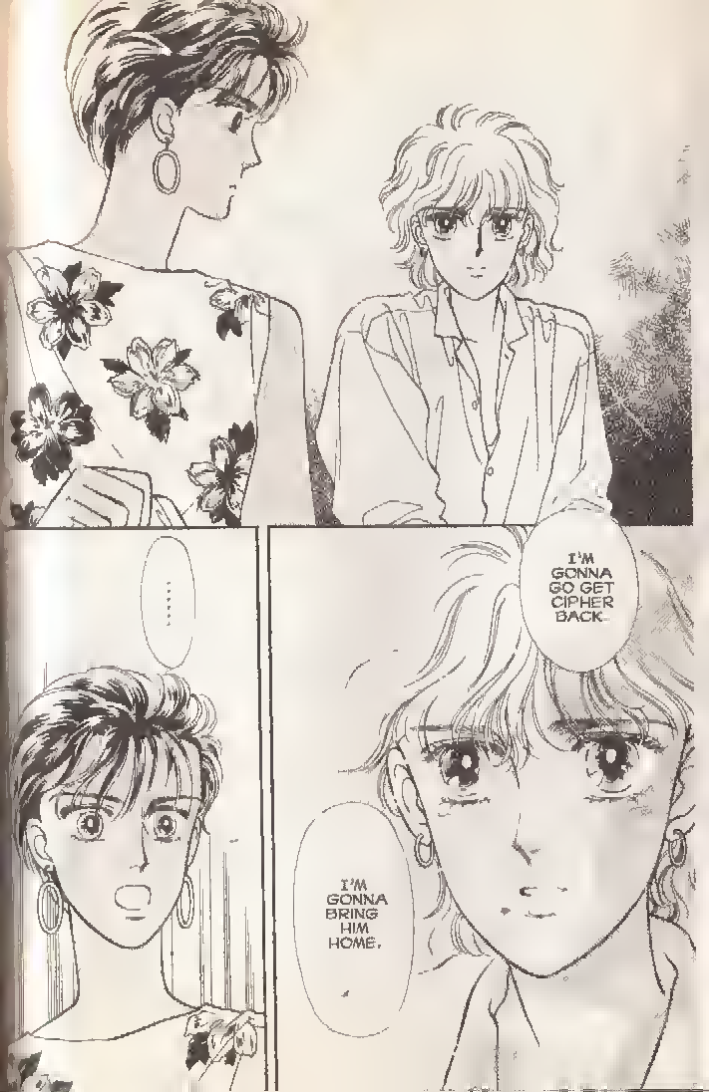
I AM AN AWFUL PERSON.

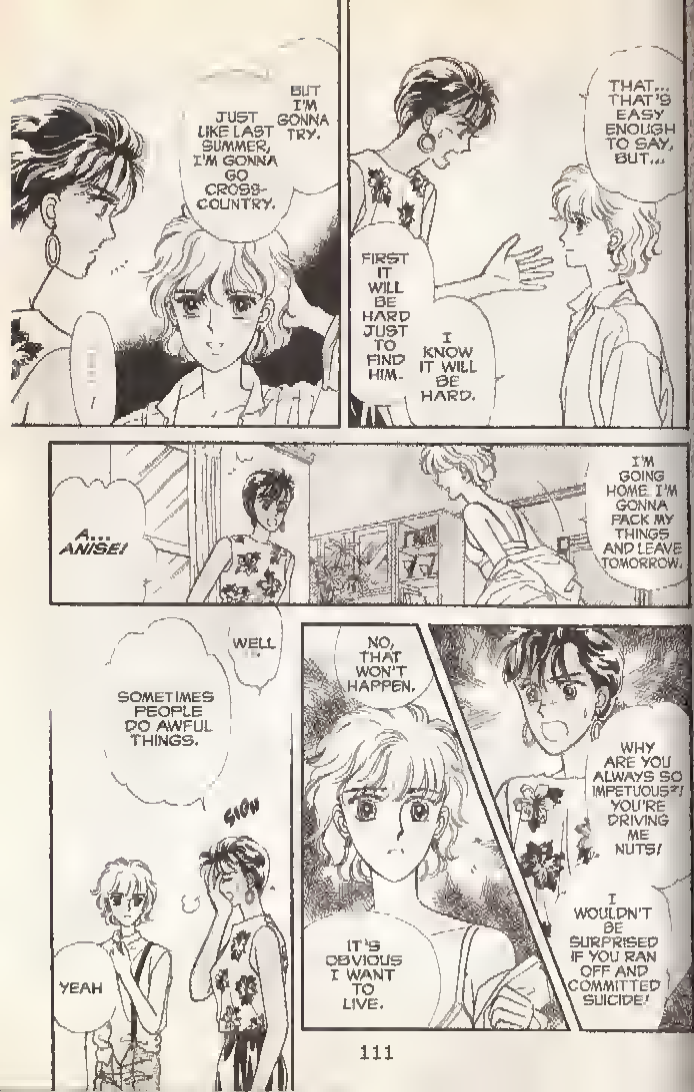
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED, BUT I THINK YOU'RE THE VICTIM
H-HEY, WAIT A SEC, ANISE
AS THINGS ARE NOW, THEY'LL BOTH HATE ME.
SOOOB
OKAY, OKAY!
THIS ISN'T CIPHER OR SIVA'S FAULT!
LOOKING AT YOUR BRA REMINDS ME.
OH, LOOK, YOUR BUTTON IS BROKEN.
TAKE IT OFF- I'LL FIX IT.

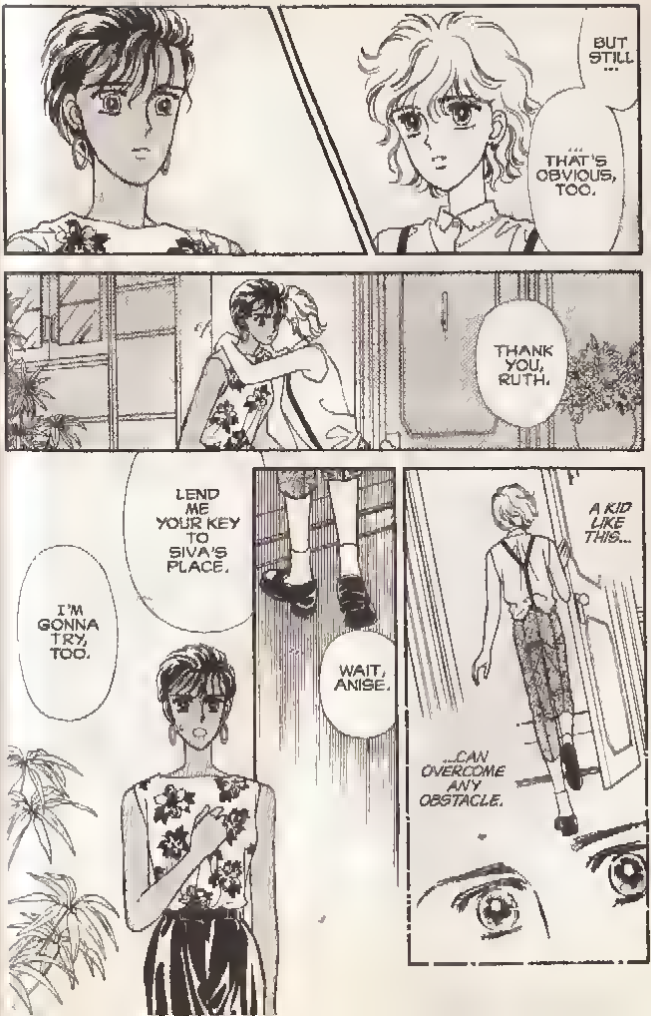

SNICKER
THAT WAS CIPHER?
THAT ...
IT WAS CIPHER, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT.
HE ASKED ME TO CONVINCE YOU TO START WEARING A BRA.
SAY...I WONDER IF SIVA SAW MY BRA BACK THEN?
Borrowed from Asch
.....

"OH, YEAH...
"MAYBE A BANDAGE MIGHT HAVE SUITED YOU BETTER."
NOW I REALIZE IT...
CIPHER ALWAYS GAVE ME THINGS TO PROTECT ME

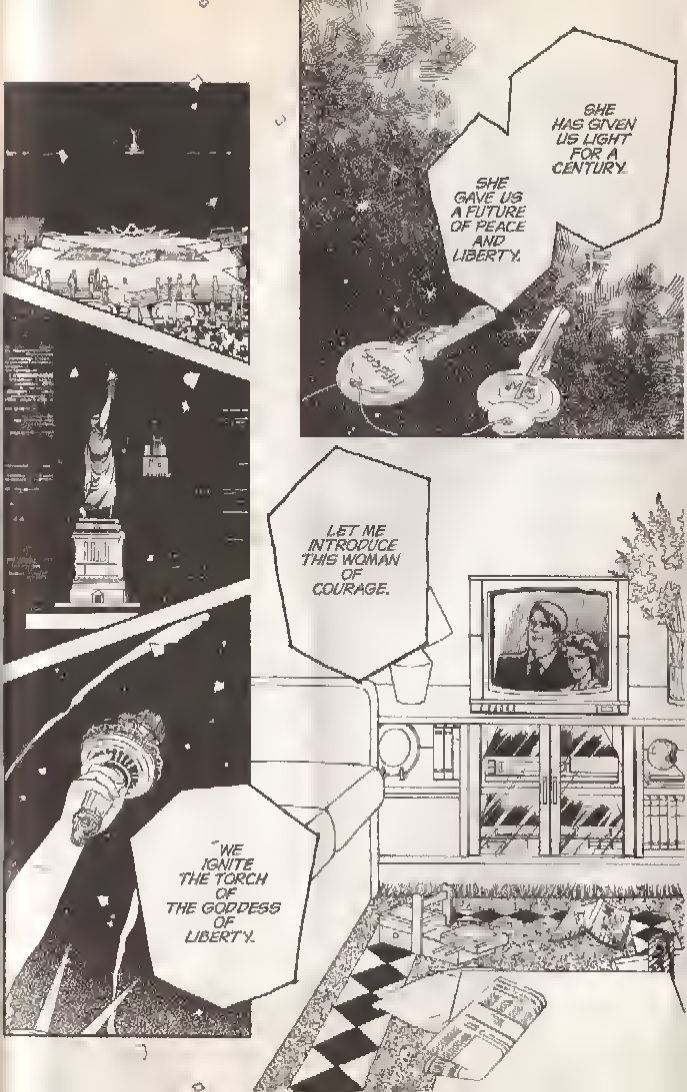
CIPHER!
I'M GOING TO L.A.
WHAT ARE YOU ...
WHY, ALL OF A SUDDEN ?

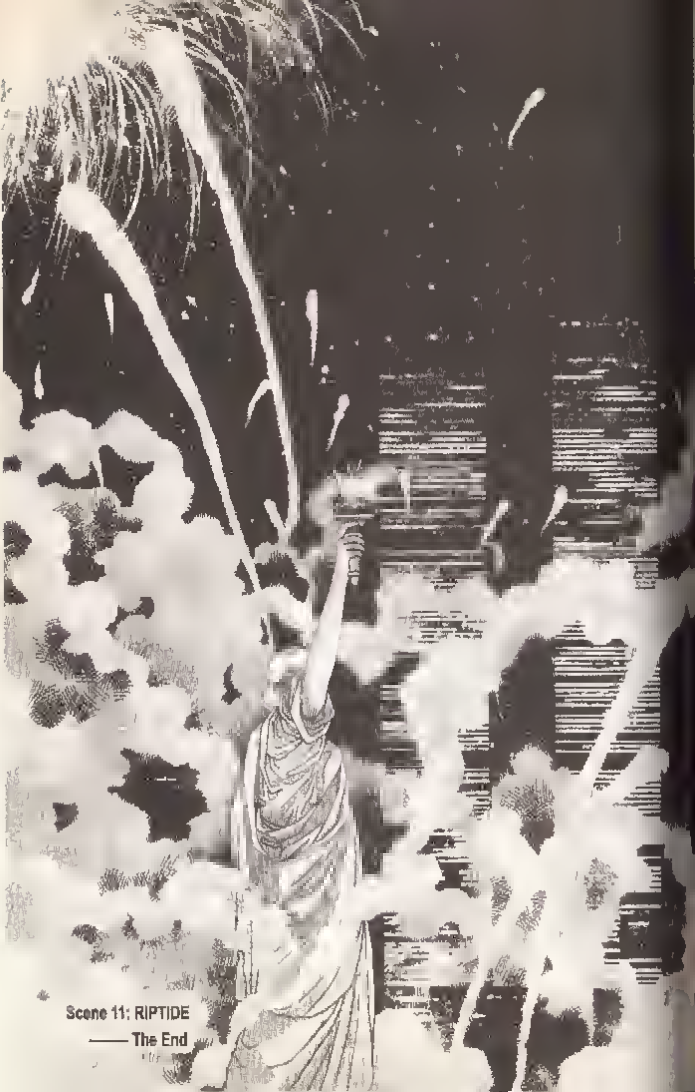

I'M GONNA GO GET CIPHER BACK.
I'M GONNA BRING HIM HOME.
.....


THAT... THAT'S EASY ENOUGH TO SAY, BUT...
I KNOW IT WILL BE HARD.
FIRST IT WILL BE HARD JUST TO FIND HIM.
BUT I'M GONNA TRY.
JUST LIKE LAST SUMMER, I'M GONNA GO CROSS-COUNTRY.
I'M GOING HOME. I'M GONNA PACK MY THINGS AND LEAVE TOMORROW.
A... ANISE!
WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SO IMPETUOUS?! YOU'RE DRIVING ME NUTS!
NO, THAT WON'T HAPPEN.
IT'S OBVIOUS I WANT TO LIVE.
I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF YOU RAN OFF AND COMMITTED SUICIDE!
WELL...
SOMETIMES PEOPLE DO AWFUL THINGS.
SION
YEAH


BUT STILL ...
... THAT'S OBVIOUS, TOO.
THANK YOU, RUTH.
A KID LIKE THIS...
...CAN OVERCOME ANY OBSTACLE.
WAIT, ANISE.
LEND ME YOUR KEY TO SIVA'S PLACE.
I'M GONNA TRY, TOO.

I WANT TO KNOW WHETHER THE ONE I LIKE IS CIPHER OR SIVA!
MOLLY CERTAINLY FEELS THE SAME WAY.
AND IF IT ISN'T CIPHER ...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "TRY"?
TRY TO BE SURE!
I'LL TRY TO FIGHT WITH DANA ...
... FOR SIVA'S SAKE!


SHE HAS GIVEN US LIGHT FOR A CENTURY.
SHE GAVE US A FUTURE OF PEACE AND LIBERTY.
LET ME INTRODUCE THIS WOMAN OF COURAGE.
"WE IGNITE THE TORCH OF THE GODDESS OF LIBERTY.



Scene 11: RIPTIDE
—— The End